THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procedure of child adoption

576. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Non-Govemmental Organisations have pointed out that ejtisting procedures of child adoption in the country are faulty leading to child trafficking; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for OBC status to Muslims in Assam

577. SHRI P PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to slate:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam is considering a proposal to grant all the Muslims in the State the status of Other Backward Classes (OBC's);

(b) if so, whether Government have received any formal proposal from the Government of Assam in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE); (a) to (c) The Govt, of Assam is examining whether the prevailing socioeconomic condition and the educational backwardness of the Muslims justify them to be included in the State List of Backward Classes. The Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 16-11-1992 in the case of Indira Sawhney and others *Vs.* Union of India and others directed the